

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SOURCE:

GENERAL INFORMATION

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1. in the USSR, I lived in Upravlencheskiy, which had a population of 5000 in 1950. Twenty per cent of the non-Russian population was Tartars. The city was built on a hill about 150 meters from the Volga River and occupied an area of about two square kilometers.
 2. Upravlencheskiy was built after the war, and German prisoners-of-war assisted in its construction. Rail and bus communication was maintained between Upravlencheskiy and Kuybyshev, thirty kilometers to the southeast, and there was also a train to Krasnaya Glinka.
 3. The dwellings in Upravlencheskiy were either large, 150-meter-square, brick apartment houses, five stories high, or Finnish, prefabricated, wooden houses, which were individual or duplex, one-story units.
 4. The annual birthrate in the city was approximately 30 per 1000. I believe that the infant mortality rate was very high - probably fifty per cent of all live births. My own babies were born in the USSR and died of dysentery at a hospital for contagious diseases in Bezymyanka, a suburb of Kuybyshev. I am not able to provide information on the leading causes of death or the death-rate in Upravlencheskiy, but old people were conspicuously in the minority. On the whole, the Soviet rural population seemed older than urban workers.

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DISEASE INCIDENCE

5. Malaria was endemic in the region. The Volga River bed was swampy, and in the flood periods the river overflowed its banks and upon receding left stagnant pools of water in which anopheles mosquitoes bred. The Soviets sprayed powder from planes to combat the mosquitoes and also spread oil over mosquito breeding ponds. Quinine tablets were given to malaria victims; I did not hear of akrikhin being used.
6. Tuberculosis was also endemic among the Soviets. Typhoid cases occurred occasionally. No typhus or epidemic hepatitis was reported in Upravlencheskiy. Dysentery was frequently fatal in children. Worm infestation was very common. The incidence of venereal disease was rare.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

7. Upravlencheskiy had a 60-bed hospital in a two-story wooden building about 300 m from the center of the city. The hospital was located on the same side of the street as the market place. Next to it was a small maternity home in which the mothers usually had their babies.
8. At the edge of the city, on the crest of the heights overlooking the Volga River, the Air Transport Ministry had a huge sanatorium. This building, which was built on several levels of the high ground, was faced with a white marble-like plaster. I estimate that 1000 men could be accommodated in the sanatorium. The countryside was ideally suited for rest homes since this section of the Volga was quite picturesque. Many large country homes in this area had been taken over by the government and utilized as sanatoriums.
9. The hospital in Upravlencheskiy did not have an infectious-diseases section. All patients suffering from contagious diseases were transported by trucks to Bezmyanka. Care at the hospital at Bezmyanka was very poor. When my children had dysentery and were taken to this hospital, my wife accompanied them, supplied and cooked their food, and nursed them. This was expected of relatives or friends of all patients in the Bezmyanka hospital. My children were treated by administration of saline intravenous solutions and blood transfusions from my wife and me. I know of no blood plasma substitutes in use in the USSR. The treatment employed was unavailing and the children died.
10. The hospital staff at Upravlencheskiy had several capable physicians, whose names I cannot recall. The surgeons were apparently well-trained. The physicians did not have the ability or interest to cope with non-routine complaints and with non-specific symptoms. They could do nothing unless there was an obvious association between symptom and treatment; no laboratory tests were utilized to assist in diagnosis other than urine analyses. It was my experience that the Soviet civilians could not expect first-rate medical care from the city physicians. I recall one case in which a patient requiring an eye operation was referred to Kuybyshev.
11. A polyclinic was located in the center of Upravlencheskiy, approximately 150 m from the main street. This polyclinic was expected to furnish medical aid to the Soviets coming from a large area around Upravlencheskiy as well as to the city inhabitants and factory workers. All patients were expected to report to the polyclinic for care. I am unable to furnish further details on treatment there.
12. Only the simplest drugs could be obtained at the pharmacy in Upravlencheskiy. Aspirin was available, but pyramidon, ether, morphine, eleudron(sic), penicillin or poisons were not. Bandages and adhesive tape and streptocide were in

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stock. I believe that penicillin could be obtained at the pharmacy during the last months of our stay.

HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

13. The city had no effective tuberculosis control organization. However, because of the fear which Soviet physicians had of epidemics, they made every effort to examine properly patients reporting to the polyclinic who suspected they had tuberculosis. I know that such patients were subjected to X-ray studies, but I have no knowledge of further examination employed. This service was given only to people who reported to the polyclinic. Physicians did not go out among the people to inquire into the possible incidence of the disease or conditions contributing to the disease.
14. No venereal disease control existed. This was not a serious problem.
15. The health authorities were active in stimulating an awareness of the need for sanitation. They displayed posters dealing with health propaganda at the polyclinic and arranged lectures on hygienic practices at the city club. One of these lectures dealt with the virtues of maintaining clean streets.
16. I know nothing of the existence of a social service program for continuing observation of patients after recovery. Sick people were expected to report their complaints to the polyclinic doctors.
17. Children were immunized against smallpox and diphtheria. Whooping cough immunizations were given only if an epidemic was anticipated.
18. In 1948 several cases of typhoid occurred, and the general population was given a series of three injections of typhoid vaccine. I recall no other instance of immunization for adults. The polyclinic doctors dispensed malaria tablets for prophylactic use during the height of the malaria epidemics.

FOOD AVAILABILITY AND INSPECTION

19. Regulations concerning sanitary handling of foods were set down by health authorities. In general, these regulations were ignored by the population, who were habitually unhygienic.
20. There was no slaughterhouse in Upravlencheskiy. All meat which was sold in the city bore an official stamp. I am not certain whether this stamp was an inspection or a tax stamp.
21. The city had one store and one market place. Fish was sold in the market place or door-to-door by private citizens; local fish had an excellent flavor. Vegetables and dairy products were sold in the market place by farmers from the surrounding areas and small towns.
22. The only restaurants in Upravlencheskiy were the so-called stolovaya, where midday meals could be obtained inexpensively. These meals included soup and potatoes and a poor grade of bread which contained almost fifty per cent water. White bread and rolls of much better quality than our city could offer were on sale in Kuybyshev.

MILK

23. Milk, in bulk, was sold at the market place from metal containers. It was never pasteurized, nor was it clean. A control office required sellers of milk to bring their wares to a check-point in the city where

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it was subjected to a taste-test to determine flavor and where its appearance was inspected for cleanliness. It was possible for the health inspectors to reject milk brought for testing or to publish the fact that the animals of an owner were sick and that purchase of milk from the owner was forbidden.

24. I do not know what examinations of milk animals were carried out or what control of these animals was enforced.
25. Milk was on sale only in the market place in Upravlencheskiy. Most of the Germans suspected that milk sold there was frequently a mixture of goat, horse, and cow milk diluted with water. Not all milk was bad. A specially prepared sour cream was very popular. Nevertheless, one could not depend on the quality of the city's milk products.

WATER SUPPLY

26. Upravlencheskiy had a public water supply system. This water was obtained from the Volga River, and, after being filtered, it was pumped to water towers. This system was adequate to supply the entire population. In the summer the water supply was very low, and whenever the electric current was shut off no water could be obtained from the taps. The city had no wells or springs.
27. The factory supplied carbonated drinking water for the workers at no charge. Regular tap water in the factory was not to be consumed by the workers, and the general regulation for the citizens in Upravlencheskiy was that all water had to be boiled before drinking. Signs which stated that certain tap water was not to be drunk were on display throughout the factory.
28. I usually drank tea, coffee, beer, or carbonated water. Mineral water was only used for dietary reasons. The Soviets drank considerable amounts of vodka. I estimate that the average worker consumed 100 cc. of vodka per day.

DISPOSAL SYSTEMS

29. The city did not have a public sanitary sewage system. Chlorinated cesspools were utilized for the apartment houses. The small homes and the Finnish houses used outdoor latrines. I am not certain of the manner in which this sewage was disposed, but I believe it was eventually thrown into a small canal which flowed into the Volga River. The excreta from the outdoor latrines was not chlorinated. Human excreta was not used as fertilizer.
30. The rain water run-off conditions were poor, and some water always remained after heavy rainfalls.
31. Garbage was placed in wooden containers in the rear of the apartment houses. Trucks or ox-carts came at irregular intervals to collect this refuse. Each apartment had a janitor to control garbage disposal. However, the garbage of the Germans was regularly rifled by Soviets who sought to salvage food. Garbage was ultimately buried outside of the city.
32. The Soviet dead were buried three days after death at the latest. There was no public organization in the city which assumed the responsibility of interment, and the individual's family had to perform the task. The people appeared to be opposed to cremation on the basis of religious conviction.

PEST CONTROL

33. Apparently there was no organized effort to exterminate vermin in Upravlencheskiy. Mosquitoes, bedbugs, rats, and mice were very numerous, and, except for the campaign against mosquitoes, no effort was made to wipe out the pests.

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